

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An emulsified cosmetic composition comprising surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and water, wherein  
said surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise a crosslinked polymer,  
the average particle diameter of said surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , and  
said emulsified cosmetic composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of water absorbed into the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 5 to 100 g/g.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1, which has a viscosity of 1,000 to 500,000 mPa·s.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of water is 30 to 95% by weight and the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are present in an amount of 0.2 to 10 percent by weight.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of a functional group.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1, which is an antiperspirant.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A cosmetic comprising the emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method of antiperspiration, comprising applying the emulsified composition according to claim 1 onto skin.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An emulsified cosmetic composition comprising surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and water, wherein  
said surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise a polymer or copolymer of hydrophilic vinyl monomers,  
the average particle diameter of said surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , and  
said emulsified cosmetic composition is an oil-in-water emulsion.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 10, wherein the amount of water absorbed into the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 5 to 100 g/g.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 10, which has a viscosity of 1,000 to 500,000 mPa·s.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 10, wherein the content of water is 30 to 95% by weight and the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are present in an amount of 0.2 to 10 percent by weight.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 10, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of a functional group.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 10, which is an antiperspirant.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A cosmetic comprising the emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 10.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A method of antiperspiration, comprising applying the emulsified composition according to claim 10 onto skin.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinked polymer is a crosslinked polymer or copolymer of hydrophilic vinyl monomers.

Claim 20 (New): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 5, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are present in an amount of 0.5 to 10 percent by weight.

Claim 21 (New): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are present in an amount of 0.5 to 10 percent by weight.

Claim 22 (New): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of said surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 23 (New): The emulsified cosmetic composition according to claim 10, wherein the average particle diameter of said surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .